

friend Larry Williams, started a low power FM radio station. In those heady early days, the station broadcast from the living room of Kevin's house in Acres Homes. Later, as the station established its niche and found its audience, it moved the broadcast signal up the FM dial from 89.1 to 96.1, and moved its base of operations to the corner of West Montgomery and South Victory Streets.

Located in the heart of Acres Homes, FM96.1 DaZone soon became the heartbeat of the community. Led by Kevin and a team of over 30 dedicated volunteers, the station broadcast a wide range of music, public service announcements, live-remote events, and public affairs programming, including exclusive interview shows with local government officials, community activists, economic developers, performing and visual artists, and leaders of faith-based organizations.

From top to bottom, FM96.1 is and has always been a labor of love. It has no employees; no one involved with the station receives a salary; everyone serves in a volunteer capacity. The station operates largely on a barter basis, exchanging, for example, free staff haircuts for live remote broadcasts from the Acres Homes College of Barber Design, or free lunches on Fridays in exchange for "shout outs" to Chi Chi's Soulfood Kitchen. Modest cash donations are made in exchange for other on-air notices or promotions.

FM96.1's mission and programming are targeted directly to the needs of the roughly 40,000 people who live in Acres Homes, an underprivileged and underserved historic part of north Houston. The mission of FM96.1 is to enhance the services, identity, unity and overall quality of life of Acres Homes' residents by providing programming focused directly on their needs and aspirations. It promotes local activities, community events, businesses, churches, and service organizations, offering a microphone to business owners, school principals, ministers, community service providers and politicians who seek to instruct, employ, build or inspire the community.

Perhaps FM96.1's indispensable role in the Acres Homes community is best demonstrated by its response to a series of rapes and murders occurring last year within just a few miles of the station's broadcast location. Anchored by Kevin Ener, the station performed yeoman work in informing the community and participating in a series of weekly Town Hall Meetings at the Acres Homes Multi-Service Center. These meetings were held to inform local residents of the presence of a serial killer in the community, educate area women about personal safety, and inform the community about efforts being taken by a wide range of law enforcement agencies to find the perpetrator.

In addition, under the leadership of Kevin Ener, FM96.1 routinely provided free promotional advertising and live remote broadcasts for such events as Christmas toy drives, school supply drives, little league baseball registrations, basketball camps, Trail Riders, youth ministry conferences, Juneteenth celebrations, park dedications, teen dances, North Houston City College registration, Stay-In-School drives, GED certification drives, disaster-relief commodity collection projects, community health awareness events, and voter registration drives.

The depth and quality of service FM96.1, a creation of the love and vision of Kevin Ener, has delivered to the Acres Homes community

is widely recognized and acknowledged and reflected in the many letters, certificates and testimonials it has received from civic organizations, churches, small business owners, community leaders, and elected officials. It is no exaggeration to say that the large radio stations serving the Houston market would be hard pressed to match the FM96.1's record of direct service to the Acres Homes community and effectiveness in addressing the real-world issues facing Acres Homes' residents.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Ener was preceded in death by his father, Carl, and by his daughter Carolyn. He leaves to cherish his memory a beloved wife, Felisha, and nine devoted children: Brittany, Brandan, William, Kevin, Lois, Dexter, Chase, Jessica, and Nyah. Mourning his loss are his mother Deborah, his grandmother Daisy; brothers Robert, James, Kerry, and Carl; sisters Cora, Carlisle, and Tiffany; and a host of relatives, friends, and admirers.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me say that although many a tear is falling in Acres Homes tonight, joy cometh in the morning. Because that is when the thousands of people whose lives were touched and uplifted by the incandescent, effervescent, and irrepressible Kevin Ener will remember that when he was in their midst, they were in the company of a hero. He will never be forgotten. Farewell, dear prince. May angels carry you to your final rest.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOANNA KURYLO

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Joanna Kurylo of Queens, NY. I wish to recognize Ms. Kurylo for being awarded the 2007 New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Youth Award. Joanna is a student at Christ the King Regional High School where she has achieved a high level of excellence and has already established herself as a community leader. While participating in a number of extra-curricular school activities, Joanna was honored for her notable fundraising efforts which brought aid to the Darfur region and helped advance the battle against leprosy. This award is granted to five students throughout New York State each year.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurylo best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

#### CONSUMER OVERDRAFT PROTECTION FAIR PRACTICES ACT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill that extends the protections of the Truth in Lending Act to overdraft protection programs and services provided by depository institutions. The bill also requires customer consent before a depository institution may initiate overdraft protection services and fees, and enhances the

information made available to consumers relating to overdraft protection services and fees. In addition, the bill prohibits systematic manipulation in the posting of checks and other debits to a depository account for the purposes of generating overdraft protection fees, among other things.

#### HEALTHCARE AND THE FY 08 BUDGET

#### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my strong concern and disappointment over the budget that the President sent to us this week. This budget—like those that The President has presented every year for the past 7 years—clearly shows that his priorities are not in sync with that of the American people. This budget takes money that could help millions of the most vulnerable Americans—the poor, the chronically ill, the elderly, people with disabilities and children and uses it instead to give a few wealthy Americans tax breaks they don't need and many don't want.

While many have called this budget fiscally irresponsible, which is an appropriate description, Madam Speaker, in my opinion this budget goes far beyond fiscal irresponsibility! It lacks compassion and humanity and it is unjust. The American people expect better, Madam Speaker, and we must answer their call.

As others of my colleagues have conveyed, this budget does not just cut, but slashes Medicare and Medicaid, two programs that literally sustain the lives of millions of Americans who have serious health needs. And simply cannot afford coverage.

And, in this budget, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is so under-funded that the 9 million children who are uninsured today will likely remain uninsured tomorrow.

The President's budget also takes aim at people living with HIV/AIDS.

The CARE Act and its ADAP program are drastically under-funded, and will leave far too many people with HIV/AIDS without reliable access to the most advanced medications, the most appropriate health care and treatments, and the support services that they will need to manage their conditions, protect their health and care for their families.

Additionally, under this budget, the CARE Act will find itself expected to serve more people with HIV infection, but without adequate funding to do so.

Madam Speaker, as both a physician and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, more than just being disappointed, this budget makes me angry. As though the cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, and the inadequate funding for the CARE Act and SCHIP were not bad enough, after what has been hundreds of years of preventable premature deaths in people of color, I am particularly disturbed that the President's budget completely ignores and does nothing to end the travesty and injustice of racial and ethnic health disparities; nor is their funding in Health and Human Services for Katrina recovery or rebuilding the healthcare infrastructure in the Gulf region.